



Dear colleagues,

The Center for Early Childhood Education is pleased to announce the results of the 2011 TIMPANI toy study. The annual study looks at how young children in natural settings play with a variety of toys. The toy receiving the highest ratings of all toys studied this year was "TINKERTOY Construction Set" by Hasbro/PLAYSKOOL. This year's study looked at a colorful plastic version of the toy. Study findings were announced at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and at a press conference on Eastern's campus today.

According to principal investigator Dr. Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, "This year's findings confirm what we've been finding over the years with the TIMPANI study: basic, open-ended toys tend to be more beneficial to children's play and learning than some of the more elaborate and commercial toys that are on the market."

The TIMPANI toy study is an annual empirical study that looks at how young children in natural settings play with a variety of toys. Each year, nominated toys are placed in preschool classrooms and videotaped using remote cameras. Researchers use a scientific instrument to determine which toys best promote children's development in three areas: thinking and learning, social interaction and cooperation, and self-expression and imaginative play.

For more information about the TIMPANI toy study, to watch a video illustrating how children played with TINKERTOYS, and to hear preschool teachers reflect on the strengths of TINKERTOYS, visit [www.easternct.edu/cece/timpani.html](http://www.easternct.edu/cece/timpani.html).